

Message Text

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72

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2567

INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 4107

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINR, RP

SUBJECT: MARCOS AND HIS TRADITIONAL POLITICAL OPPONENTS

REF: MANILA 3043

1. PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS TAKEN A NUMBER OF STEPS IN RECENT WEEKS TOWARDS SEVERAL OF HIS PRINCIPAL FORMER POLITICAL OPPONENTS. THESE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

A(A) HE HAS PERMITTED VISITS TO THE CRITICALLY ILL HEAD OF THE LOPEZ CLAN, EUGENIO LOPEZ, SR., IN SAN FRANCISCO BY TWO OF HIS SONS, A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AND HIS BROTHER, FORMER VICE PRESIDENT FERNANDO LOPEZ. OTHER LOPEZ RELATIVES, EXCEPT FOR IMPRISONED EUGENIO LOPEZ, JR., MAY ALSO BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE. MARCOS REPORTEDLY HOPES THE SENIOR LOPEZ CAN BE CONVINCED TO RETURN TO THE PHILIPPINES TO DIE.

(B) IMPRISONED FORMER SENATOR JOSE DIOKNO RECENTLY SPENT HIS 25TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY AT HIS HOME, ALBEIT UNDER HEAVY GUARD.

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(C) MARCOS, BROTHER-IN-LAW, LEYTE GOVERNOR

BENJAMIN ROMUALDEZ, HAS BEEN TALKING TO DIOKNO'S
LAWYER, FORMER SENATOR LORENZO TANADA, WHOSE SON IS
UNDER DETENTION.

(D) FORMER SENATE PRESIDENT GIL PUYAT MET WITH
IMPRISONED FORMER SENATORS AQUINO AND DIOKNO -- PRESUMABLY
WITH MARCOS' SUPPORT -- TO DISCUSS THEIR STATUS. PUYAT
WAS ASKED BY AQUINO TO REQUEST MARCOS TO MEET WITH
THE PAIR.

2. COMMENT: WE ARE UNCERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT FOREGOING
ADD UP TO ANYTHING, BUT THEY DO REPRESENT CONTINUING
INTEREST ON PART OF MARCOS IN REACHING ACCOMMODATION,
ON HIS TERMS, WITH FORMER POLITICAL ENEMIES. MARCOS
APPEARS SUFFICIENTLY CONFIDENT THAT LOPEZ FAMILY NO
LONGER CAN SERIOUSLY THREATEN HIM. HE IS FAR MORE
DISTRUSTFUL OF OTHERS, PARTICULARLY AQUINO AND DIOKNO.
FACT THAT LATTER TWO ARE SPECIFICALLY AND DIRECTLY
HIS PRISONERS AND THAT HE HOLDS HOSTAGES IN FORM OF
SONS OF LOPEZ, TANADA, AND OSMENA GIVES HIM CONSIDERABLE
LEVERAGE IN DEALING WITH THESE PRINCIPAL LEADERS OF
HIS TRADITIONAL POLITICAL OPPOSITION.
SULLIVAN

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